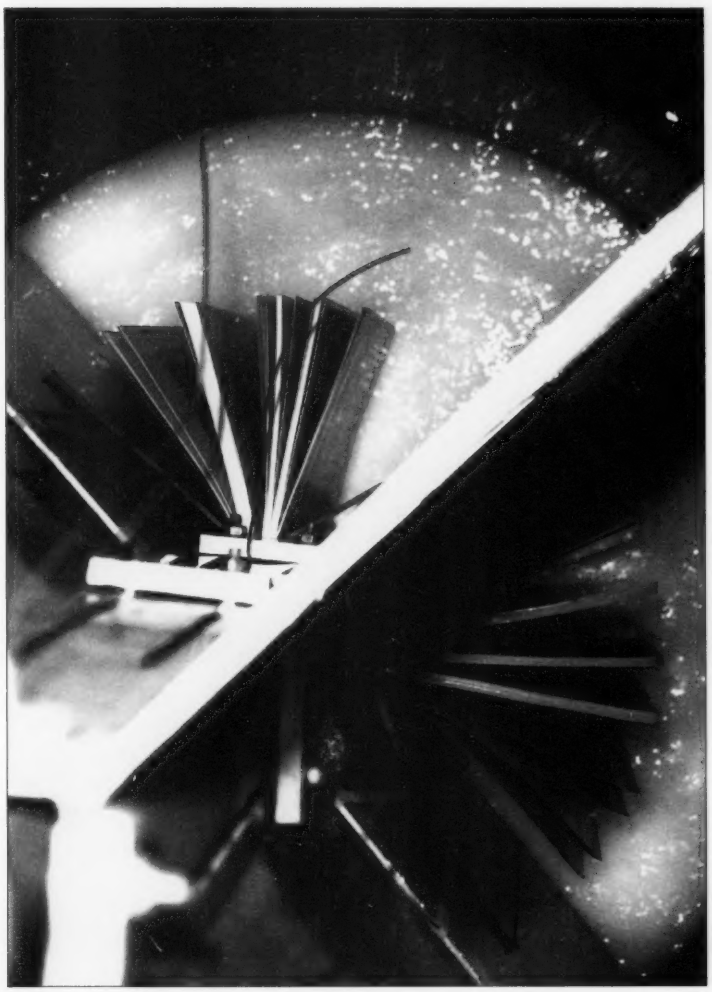
Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No. 8 Published Biweekly April 21, 1997



The Preservation Directorate

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No. 8
April 21, 1997

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August and December by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available over the Internet. On World Wide Web, use the following addresses: http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib (issues 1997 and on). For issues before 1997, connect to marvel.loc.gov and look under "Events, Facilities, Publications, and Services" or use this address: gopher://marvel.loc.gov/11/loc/pubs/lcib.

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Production

Dr. Billington Appoints New Poet Laureate

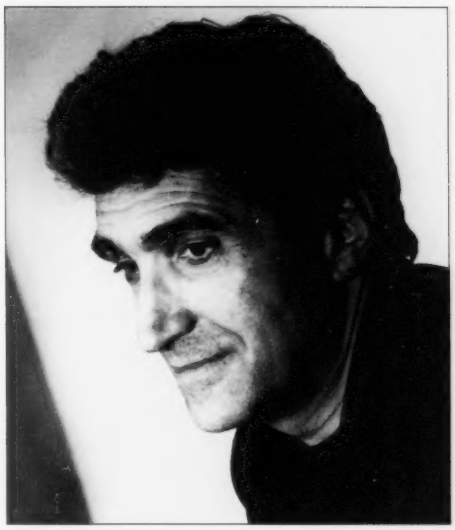
Robert Pinsky to Be Ninth Person to Hold Position

Dr. Billington has announced the appointment of Robert Pinsky to be the Library's ninth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. He will take up his duties in the fall of 1997, opening the Library's annual literary series in October with a reading of his work. Mr. Pinsky succeeds Robert Hass (whose term ends this May). Robert Hass, who served two years as the eighth Poet Laureate, will deliver his final lecture at the Library on May 1 at 6:45 p.m.

"We are fortunate to have a poet of Robert Pinsky's versatility and wide interests as Poet Laureate," said Dr. Billington. "His accomplishments in translation, his interest in making poetry accessible through digital technology on the Internet, and his own probing poetry promise an exciting year for us in Washington."

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. Pinsky said: "American poetry has been one of our great national achievements. Along with the honor of following the American poets who have held this post, I have an opportunity to continue our appreciation of that treasure. I am very pleased."

Robert Pinsky teaches in the graduate creative writing program at Boston University. He is the author of five books of poetry: *Sadness and Happiness* (1975); *An Explanation of America* (1979), awarded the Saxifrage Prize as the year's best volume of poetry from a small or university press; *History of My Heart* (1983), which won the William Carlos Williams Prize; *The Want Bone* (1990); and *The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems, 1966-1996* (1996). He is the translator of *The Separate Notebooks*, by Czeslaw Milosz (1983). His verse translation of *The Inferno of Dante* (1994) was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in poetry and the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award, given by the Academy of American Poets. He also was given the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award last year.



Sigrid Estrada

In addition to his poetry, Mr. Pinsky is the author of three collections of essays: *Landor's Poetry* (1968), *The Situation of Poetry* (1977) and *Poetry and the World* (1988). Having served as poetry editor of *The New Republic* through much of the 1980s, he is currently poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine *Slate*.

Poet and essayist Katha Pollitt wrote in *The New York Times* "Book Review" that *The Figured Wheel* "will remind readers that here is a poet who, with-

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Yusef El-Amin

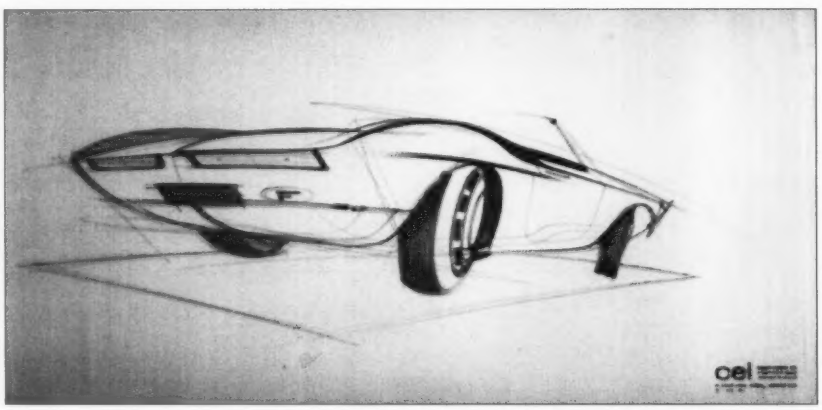
Mayor of Vienna Pays a Visit

Mayor of Vienna Michael Haeupl (left) and members of the Vienna City Council visited the Library on March 14 to affirm their financial support for the Library's exhibition "Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture," to open in fall 1998. The guests met with Dr. Billington (right), and they viewed some of the Library's Freud materials, shown by Marvin Kranz, a specialist in the Manuscript Division. Margrit B. Krewson, the Library's German/Dutch area specialist, subsequently gave them a tour of the Jefferson Building and provided an overview of the Library's Austrian collections.

'American Treasures' Set to Open May 1

Study for Legendary Avanti Automobile on View

Raymond Loewy, one of the pioneers of modern industrial design, refined the look of everything, from logos to locomotives. For many years, he served as the principal designer for the Studebaker Corp., and in 1961 the company called upon him to design a new automobile to save the company. This is one of several sketches sent from Loewy's Paris office to help in the effort, which resulted in the Avanti, a rare instance in which the merits of a product caused it to survive the failure of the company that produced it.



Raymond Loewy (1893-1986), preliminary study for Studebaker Avanti; fluid marker on paper, March 22, 1961, Prints and Photographs Division

The permanent exhibition, made possible by a grant of $1.1 million from the Xerox Foundation, will be the centerpiece of a yearlong celebration marking the official reopening of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building during its 100th anniversary year. The Jefferson Building has been undergoing renovation since 1984 and will be seen in its fully restored state for the first time when it reopens on May 1.

Due to the high number of visitors expected, same-day, timed-entry tickets will be available free beginning May 1. The tickets may be obtained from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Visitors' Information Desk inside the ground-floor entrance of the Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street S.E. The exhibition is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays. It is located in the Southwest Gallery and Pavilion, on the mezzanine level of the Jefferson Building. The exhibition is made possible by a grant from the Xerox Foundation.

Advance tickets for the exhibition may be obtained only from Ticketmaster. At Ticketmaster outlets, including Hecht's department stores in the Washington-Baltimore area, tickets have been available since April 14 for a $2 service charge. Ticketmaster phone charge tickets are $2.75 plus a $1.25 handling fee per order. To charge tickets by phone, call (202) 432-SEAT in Washington, D.C.; (410) 481-SEAT in Baltimore; and (703) 573-SEAT in Virginia. Out of state callers may dial (800) 551-SEAT toll-free.

For those who cannot come to Washington, selected items from the exhibition can be viewed on-line at http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/.

All groups of 10 or more are requested to call the Visitor Services Office at (202) 707-2630 to arrange a tour. For recorded information about the exhibition, call (202) 707-3834.

Free tours are available of the 100-year-old Thomas Jefferson Building, which also opens to the public on May 1 in its fully restored state after 12 years of renovation. The Italian Renaissance-style Jefferson Building was called "the most beautiful public building in America" when it opened in 1897.

No tickets are required for building tours, which begin at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Visitors' Information Desk. The exhibition and areas of the building are barrier free and accessible to the disabled.

NACO Participants' Manual from the Cataloging Distribution Service

The new, second edition of the *NACO Participants' Manual* (1996), 152 pages, softcover, is available from the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) for $20. In addition to National Authority Cooperative Project (NACO) procedures, the new edition contains information on how to cite electronic resources, such as Web sites and other current resources. Cataloging policy changes since the 1994 edition also are reflected in the updated text. To order this or any other CDS product you need for your work, contact your division representative or call CDS Customer Service at (202) 707-6100.

The Library of Congress Receives Films from the Embassy of Israel

More than 100 Israeli documentary films on videocassette were presented to the Library of Congress by Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar on behalf of the Embassy of Israel on March 21.

The group of films, which expands the Library's audiovisual holdings from Israel, covers a variety of subjects, including archaeology, culture and society, geography, history, international cooperation, Jerusalem, the Holocaust, immigration, the Israel Defense Forces; the Arab-Israeli conflict, nature, religion, science, technology and agriculture.

Among the films presented is the "Wonder of Israel," which has won a number of awards: the CINE Golden Eagle, the Telly Award, a Silver medal at the New York World Festival and a Bronze Medal from the National Education Media Network.

"The Library greatly appreciates the Embassy of Israel's cooperation and generosity in making these items available to us," said Dr. Billington. "These important films will fill a gap in the Library's collections documenting Israeli culture and related issues."

Ambassador Ben-Elissar said, "The Embassy of Israel is donating these films to enable the American people to get a taste of Israel's multidimensional society. We hope that this collection will entice Americans to visit Israel to see for themselves what is so well-portrayed in these 100 films. The Embassy of Israel and the Library of Congress will continue to work together in the future to make as many resources as possible available to the American people."

The presentation was marked by sadness, as a bombing had taken place in Tel Aviv earlier in the day. Dr. Billington expressed his sympathy for the victims. Ambassador Ben-Elissar added, "It is unfortunate that the world of Israel is tainted with tragedy and disaster, but it is wonderful for us to be among books and good friends, especially on this day."

Jim Higgins

David Francis, chief of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (left), and Dr. Billington (right) thank Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar and his wife, Nitza, for the Israeli Embassy's gift of more than 100 Israeli films to the Library. The March 21 presentation was held in the Librarian's office.

The films are being provided under the terms of the agreement dated Feb. 19, 1950, between the governments of the United States and Israel (Treaties and Other International Acts Series 2169), in which the official publications of Israeli government agencies are made available to the Library of Congress. The agreement calls for exchange of a full set of official publications between the Library of Congress, as a recipient for the official publications of the government of Israel, and the State Archives in Jerusalem, as the recipient for the U.S. government documents.

Traditionally, only paper copies of documents were exchanged. In the early 1980s materials for the international exchange program were made available on microfiche by the U.S. Government Printing Office. With advances in modern technology, alternative formats such as CD-ROMs, videos and cassettes are now available via exchange from government and non-governmental sources in Israel. The 100 films are the first in what is expected to be a continuing relationship with the Israeli Embassy.

Gail Shirazi and Norma Mordfin of the African/Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section in the Order Division at the Library are responsible for managing the Israeli exchange program. Annually, more than 6,000 pieces are received on exchange from Israel, from more than 200 active partners, including official government sources, universities and other non-

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Jim Higgins

Congressional Research Service Director Daniel P. Mulhollan, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), and Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) look at a map of Pascagoula, Miss. (where Sen. Lott lives), shown by Ronald Grim, a specialist in the history of cartography in the Geography and Map Division, during the March 13 reception.

The Library Welcomes New Senators

Reception Held in Newly Restored Jefferson Building

Dr. Billington and Senate leaders welcomed new members of the Senate at a dinner and reception held in the Library's Jefferson Building on March 13.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) welcomed the four new senators in attendance: Michael B. Enzi (R-Wyo.), Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.). Three of the four new senators at the dinner — all but Mr. Enzi — had also served in the House of Representatives.

The other senators who saw treasures from the Library's collections on display in the Great Hall were: John Ashcroft (R-Mo.), Richard H. Bryan (D-Nev.), Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), Frank H. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Charles Robb (D-Va.) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

The Librarian, the senators, their spouses and guests, dined in the Members' Room. Marshall Coyne, a member of LC's Madison Council, provided funding for the dinner, as he has for the previous two classes of incoming senators in 1993 and 1995. The new Architect of the Capitol, Alan Hantman, and Senate Sergeant at Arms Greg Casey joined the group of senators for dinner.

Senate Chaplain Lloyd J. Ogilvie said a prayer before dinner, and following dinner, Dr. Billington opened

the short program by welcoming the guests to the magnificently restored Members' Room. "This room provides a particularly fitting venue for us tonight not only because we have a view of the illuminated Capitol Building itself but also because this room was designed and reserved for use by members of Congress," he said. "It's one of the real jewels of this newly restored Jefferson Building along with the Members' Reading Room, which is adjacent and also open this evening for you to look at.

"Now, as you look around, I think you can sense in this building and in this room in particular the optimism, the pride, the exuberance, the great expectations that Congress incorporated into this glorious building that was dedicated just a hundred years ago. It is really a celebration of the whole uniquely American idea that for democracy to be dynamic on the continental scale, it has to be based on the open access and use of knowledge. This is an exuberant celebration of that fundamental fact of the American system."

Sen. Lott remarked that "we have brought our own library and our own history with us. We have of course the distinguished President Pro Tempore of the Senate [Sen. Thurmond] ... the junior senator from South Carolina [Sen. Hollings], and Sen. Byrd, who is our historian. Between [Sen. Thurmond and Sen. Byrd], they know more about this Library than probably all the rest of us combined. So we are delighted to be here in their presence.

"On behalf of all our colleagues, particularly our new colleagues that are here, we thank you for this occasion. And Marshall Coyne, we thank you. We know what a wonderful benefactor you are of the Library of Congress. He said in our discussion that he was pleased to do this because he wanted to take advantage of every opportunity, every vehicle to make members of the Congress, and the Senate in particular, aware of what a tremendous treasure we have here in this magnificent building, this facility, this repository of our great republic. And so, we thank you for this occasion. ...

"For new senators ... you know, really getting to know the Library of Congress would take more than one night, would probably take more than a lifetime. It is unfortunate that, with the pace that we have in Congress, we don't find more occasions to come over here and see exactly what you have, enjoy this room.

"For most of us, the Library of Congress is, quite often, the Congressional Research Service — that is an indispensable source of information for us: data, borrowed books and research — delivered in impossible detail that we could never find ourselves or our staffs would never have the time to do. So, I think it's appropriate that we express our appreciation to the CRS staff for the tremendous work they do under very hectic circumstances, quite often. But, we know that CRS is only a small part of a great institution. What started out as Thomas Jefferson's personal collection of almost 7,000 books is now the largest repository of recorded knowledge in the world.

"This evening, this all surrounds us. We had just a glimpse of it a few minutes ago. It holds in trust the history of our country, to speak to us about the nation's past and remind us of the part of the past that we are playing now as we live in this time and move into the future. We are able to stand on the shoulders of the past that we have here in this library and build for a greater future.

"In a few years, the Library will observe the bicentennial of its founding year, 1800. ... We, certainly, will look forward to supporting that and helping make sure that we indeed have a national celebration, involving all the American people in our great diversity, for this institution represents us all. It holds the testaments of our faith. It records our country's music. That's important to Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Mo.) and to me. It saves our forefathers' letters and their sermons, Chaplain. Their broadsides that were administered sometime in the halls of Congress, their memorials, their texts and their treatises. If the Smithsonian is rightly called 'the nation's attic,' then the Library of Congress is our family diary, for it preserves the ideas and ideals that define us as a nation and animate us as a people. So, we are delighted to be here tonight to give us a greater appreciation of what we have at our fingertips and to maybe give us a renewed commitment to do the right things in this time, so that our future will be revered and loved as our past has been and as it is held here in this fine building. Thank you very much."

The Library "holds in trust the history of our country. ... We are able to stand on the shoulders of the past that we have here in this library and build for a greater future."

– Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.)
Senate Majority Leader

Sen. Byrd spoke next: "We meet here tonight in this magnificent Library in part due to the actions of British troops during the summer of 1814. When the British landed on the shores of the Chesapeake and defeated American forces at the battle of Bladensburg, they marched into Washington and burned down the United States Capi-

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A Paper Chase

Technology Helps Library Save Its Collections on Paper

By Will Dalrymple

A liquid-based mass deacidification technology called Bookkeeper may help the Library win its war against acid damage in its paper collections.

In January 1995, Congress authorized a two-year, $2 million initiative to treat some 72,000 books through the Bookkeeper process and also to help assess the effectiveness of other methods of neutralizing acids in paper. So far about 56,000 books have been treated and by early September, another 16,000 will have been through the process at a cost of about $11.70 per book.

The Bookkeeper process — which impregnates books with magnesium oxide particles that both neutralize the acid in paper and leave an alkaline buffer behind — follows the Library's 20-year effort to develop and refine another deacidification technology known as the diethyl zinc gaseous process.

Acidic paper threatens to destroy most of the Library's 17 million books and other large collections of paper-based materials.

"A majority of books here — and in any library — were printed on acidic paper and are in danger of embrittlement," said Chandru J. Shahani, chief of the Library's Preservation Research and Testing Division. "Unless they are deacidified, most of these books will become too brittle to handle within the next 50 years."

Paradoxically, most threatened paper was made long after some of the oldest of the Library's collections. The Library's oldest paper materials — usually made from cotton rag — register slightly acidic but degrade more slowly than woodground, pulp-based paper. Mills switched from rag to wood pulp in the early 19th century to increase the production to meet demand. Paper makers still use cotton today for high-quality stationery and U.S. currency.

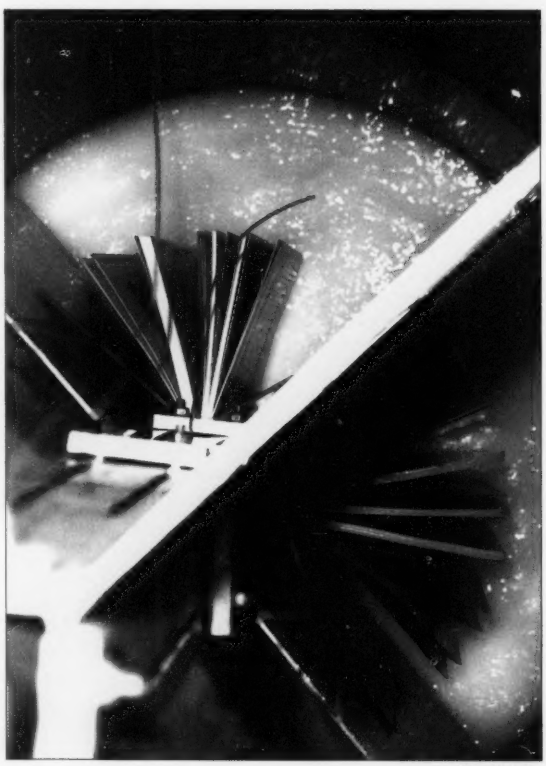
"Impurities such as lignin, hemicellulose and hydrolyzed cellulose [all basic to the cellular structure of wood pulp] oxidize and produce substantial amounts of acidic degradation products," according to a Progress Report by Preservation Technologies Inc. of Cranberry Township, Pa., included as an appendix in the 1994 publication *An Evaluation of the Bookkeeper Mass Deacidification Process: Technical Evaluation Team Report for the Preservation Directorate, Library of Congress.* (For this report and other information regarding deacidification, see LC MARVEL on the Internet at gopher://marvel.loc.gov:70/11/services/preserv/.)

Atmospheric gases can also react with the paper to form acids, the Preservation Technologies Inc. (PTI) report noted. PTI owns and operates the Bookkeeper process.

"These acids break down the cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin in the paper and form additional acids as by-products. These acids, in turn, catalyze further degradation, and therefore this process is termed autocatalytic," the report said.

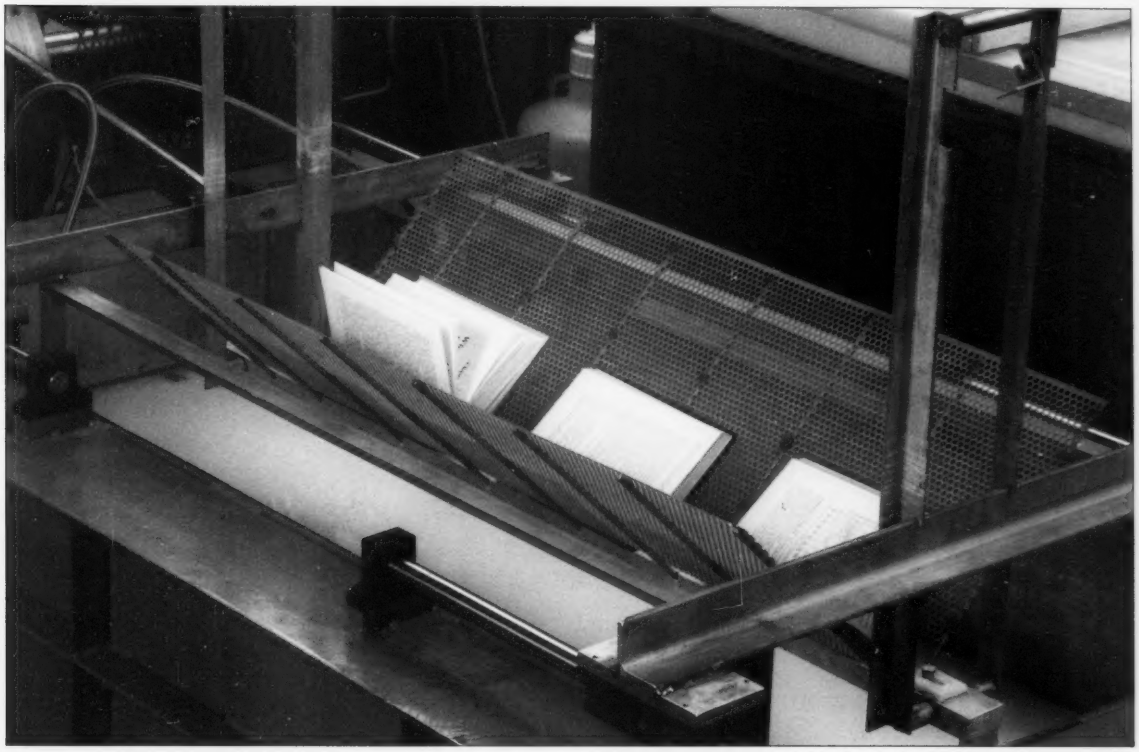
"This shortening of the average chain length of these paper components leads to a catastrophic loss of paper strength. It has been estimated that when 0.5 to 1 percent of the bonds are broken the paper will be virtually useless," it said.

In 1990 the Library published a set of technical specifications for mass deacidification. To be approved by the Library, a deacidification process must



Looking down into a Bookkeeper deacidification treatment cylinder. Books are mounted on racks and gently agitated in a milky suspension of magnesium oxide. They are only submerged for about 25 minutes.

Kenneth Harris



PTI Inc.

Another treatment chamber used in Bookkeeper technology. Books are mounted on the large cradle and submerged. Bookkeeper equipment can be used to treat fragile and oversize books.

increase the useful life of paper by at least three times, as measured by physical and chemical tests performed after artificial aging at elevated temperature and humidity conditions.

The process and the treatment must be safe for library readers and the operators of deacidification equipment.

The procedure must not physically change or damage the paper or ink, and it must impregnate the paper with an alkaline reserve and deacidify completely all the pages in a book.

"Paper conservators generally counter the effects of acidity in paper by raising its pH to about 8.5-9.0 [below 7 is acidic] by means of a final aqueous bath or aqueous spray application," said paper conservator Wendy Bennett of the Carnegie Museum of Art in her article "A Paper Conservator's Evaluation of the Bookkeeper Process," appended to the Bookkeeper evaluation.

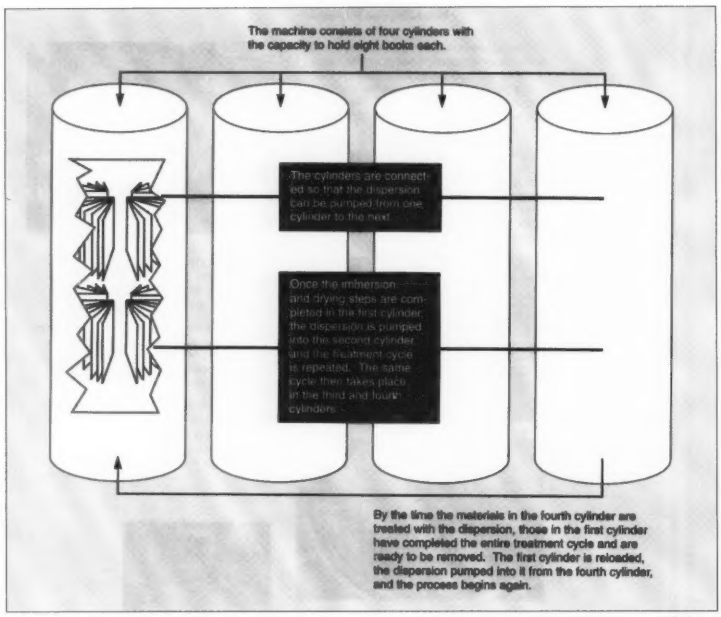
"The alkaline reserve helps to neutralize the acidity in the paper and counters future reacidification from the storage environment," she said.

In deacidification treatments, the alkaline agent is either dissolved or suspended in an inert liquid to which the books are exposed, or the agent is dispersed through a gas vapor that penetrates book material.

Any mass deacidification procedure treats many books at one time, instead of labor-intensive page-by-page spraying by conservators.

With the present Bookkeeper III equipment, PTI can deacidify a batch of eight books in each of four treatment chambers in two hours. Active exposure to the treatment chemistry lasts only about 25 minutes. The Bookkeeper process works best with standard, bound volumes in good physical shape. Preservation Projects Director Kenneth Harris and Mr. Shahani estimate that the "vast majority of LC collections" would fit these criteria. Extemely brittle, damaged books or books that are rare or very large must be treated by hand or reformatted.

Although the Bookkeeper process is harmless to most books, fragile volumes warrant extra caution, Mr. Harris and Mr. Shahani said. The Bookkeeper process submerges and gently agitates books in a liquid bath. The bath contains white, extremely fine magnesium oxide particles in suspension, an inert solvent carrier that allows the magnesium oxide to penetrate the book and a surfactant that disperses the magnesium oxide throughout the bath.


The machine consists of four cylinders with the capacity to hold eight books each.
The cylinders are connected so that the dispersion can be pumped from one cylinder to the next.
Once the immersion and drying steps are completed in the first cylinder, the dispersion is pumped into the second cylinder and the treatment cycle is repeated. The same cycle then takes place in the third and fourth cylinders.
By the time the materials in the fourth cylinder are treated with the dispersion, those in the first cylinder have completed the entire treatment cycle and are ready to be removed. The first cylinder is reloaded, the dispersion pumped into it from the fourth cylinder, and the process begins again.

PTI Inc.

The current Bookkeeper machine evolved from early models as testing took place and improvements were made. Today's machine, with the capacity of 120,000-plus books annually, includes provisions for vertical agitation, vacuum drying and recovery of the liquid carrier. PTI has recently designed machines with both smaller and larger capacities.

"This procedure relies both on the fluid transport through the book structure and on the sticking efficiency of the particles on a sheet to determine the amount, distribution and rate of particle deposition," Paul Whitmore said in his paper "Evaluation of the Bookkeeper Process Chemistry" in the Bookkeeper evaluation.

A panel of scientists and preservation experts who evaluated the Bookkeeper process at the Library's request are confident that the process does not damage or alter the appearance of the paper or the bindings of treated books. They are less sure about the deacidification reaction itself. Within the paper, magnesium oxide — MgO — and water react to form magnesium hydroxide — $Mg(OH)_2$ — the compound that actually neutralizes the acids in paper.

"It is obvious … that deacidification is possible when enough water is available to begin conversion of MgO. Complete neutralization can occur when the amount of $Mg(OH)_2$ needed to neutralize the original acid in the book is present," according to the PTI report. "Additional conversion leads to the buildup of alkaline reserve material in the book and does not affect the time required to neutralize the acids initially present in the book," it said.

Chemists found that books exposed to accelerated aging and treated by Bookkeeper met the Library's preservation criteria for longevity. In a folding test, treated book paper lasted at least three times longer than similarly aged, untreated paper.

At least one hurdle remained, however, before the Library could begin its current 72,000-book "demonstration contract" with Preservation Technologies. Testers had found that Bookkeeper did not always adequately neutralize acid in the gutter area of the book, the edge of the page where the paper is bound to the spine.

To solve the problem, Mr. Harris and Mr. Shahani worked with PTI personnel to create a battery of experiments that manipulated some of the physical and chemical conditions of the process. Subsequent laboratory tests showed greatly improved results in deacidifying the entire mass of paper in the text block, including the gutters, of books.

But Bookkeeper is not necessarily the only solution. Gaseous carriers such as those used in the diethyl zinc process, can penetrate solids and deposit a uniform coating more easily than liquid applications, such as Bookkeeper. Mr. Harris and Mr. Shahani note in their 1994 evaluation *Mass Deacidification: An Initiative to Refine the Diethyl Zinc Process* that the gaseous process "can deposit high concentrations of alkaline reserve, extremely uniformly, regardless of the thickness or size of a book. All types of papers, including coated and dense supercalendered [highly finished] papers, are thoroughly treated."

The Library had tested the complex DEZ process from 1975 until 1994. (LC patented the DEZ process in 1975.). Besides safety problems that resulted in a fire in an empty chamber in 1985, the process resulted in other unpleasant side effects such as treatment-induced odors in books, visible iridescent chemical patterns on some test book covers and damage to labels.

The Library used the Akzo Chemicals (previously known as Texas Alkyls) pilot plant in Deer Park, Texas, from 1986 until 1994 to run an additional series of DEZ tests. Safety and

processing problems were resolved; Mr. Harris and Mr. Shahani's 1994 DEZ report concluded, "Near-perfect treatment is achievable."

However, this success was not long-lived. Akzo closed the DEZ plant and terminated its contracts with the Library and other institutions in April 1994, citing "only limited prospects for adoption of this process in the near future." As a result, although perfected, the gaseous DEZ technology cannot be applied without a significant capital investment — an investment that no company or institution has yet been willing or able to make. (A large facility is not required with the Bookkeeper process.)

Various deacidification technologies continue to develop throughout the world. Institutions and companies are actively developing or initiating programs to create mass deacidification services in other countries such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, South Korea and China. Preservation Technologies' Bookkeeper process is now the only mass deacidification technology fully operational in the United States.

Regarding the contract with Preservation Technologies, Mr. Harris said that the Bookkeeper process is doing a good job so far of meeting the Library's technical requirements for deacidification. "It's gratifying," he said, "to see row after row of endangered books that have now been deacidified and safely returned in exact shelf list order without a single book being lost.

"The reward for all the hard work of Library staff is knowledge that, each month, we're able to save thousands of books from oblivion," he added. "Assuming proper storage and handling, deacidified books will be preserved and made available to future generations of researchers who will continue to rely on the Library of Congress as the responsible custodian of our cultural heritage."

— *Will Dalrymple was an intern in the Public Affairs Office.*

What is known today as Bookkeeper deacidification treatment was originally developed in the early 1980s by Koppers Co. Inc., a U.S. chemical firm.

After several years of testing different chemicals and concepts, and resulting alkaline reserve, pH level and fold endurance, Koppers was granted the patent for a deacidification method in 1985.

When Koppers chose not to develop the process further, it was sold to Richard Spatz (who had been president of Koppers Forest Products Group). He founded Preservation Technologies in 1990 with two associates, and his company was given an exclusive license.

— From "A Gentle Approach to Deacidification with Preservation Technologies Inc."

PTI Inc.

In an earlier test of the Bookkeeper process, an evaluation team appointed by the Library selected a wide variety of disposable books to test-deacidify. They cut each book in half so they would have an equivalent control sample. The uncut books stacked in the upper right-hand corner of the table are LC "blue books," which contain a variety of different types of blank test papers.

A New Awareness

Workshop Gives Members of Public Preservation Tips

Donna Lewis has seven boxes of historical items from the days when her father was a special agent and personal driver of President Dwight Eisenhower.

"I want to preserve it all," said Ms. Lewis. "And I also have a steamer trunk of family recipes."

Anne Lane, a curatorial assistant at the Museum of York County in Rock Hill, S.C., will soon be starting an archives at the museum. "I used my vacation time to come here," she said.

Professionals and hobbyists alike flocked to the Library of Congress's second Preservation Awareness Workshop on April 15 to gather tips on how to handle, clean and store valuable collections.

"This is fabulous," said Jane Pearson, a member of the Fairfax Genealogical Society, who is putting together a reference notebook for the Fairfax City Regional Library. "We need to get this preservation message out."

"My own dear mother just used glue on scrapbook pages for family photos from the 1880s to the 1950s," Ms. Pearson winced.

The daylong workshop, which was free and open to the public, was cosponsored by the Library's Center for the Book and the Preservation Directorate as part of the celebration of National Library Week. It was held in the sixth-floor Mumford Room and in two classrooms at the James Madison Building.

The workshop was divided into three segments: the lectures, the live demonstrations and the vendors.

"This is great the way it's organized," said Ms. Pearson. "We can get the guidelines in one room and then walk next door and see the stuff they're talking about and pick up the catalogs for ordering it all."

Jim Higgins

More than 500 visited the Library on April 15 to participate in the second Preservation Awareness Workshop.

It was standing-room only for the five lectures presented by Library and University of Delaware experts on the care, handling and storage of paper and prints, books, photographs, film and sound recordings.

Participants learned two general rules: proper humidity and temperature are critical; and anything of value should never be stored in an attic (excessive heat) or a basement (humidity).

In the Library's Mumford Room, visitors saw demonstrations of the Library's preservation work: gold tooling, book sewing, photoduplication, matting and framing, the handling and maintaining of film and sound recordings, and the cleaning and storage of books.

These demonstrations provided good practical tips: do not use paper clips, pressure-sensitive tape, rubber bands or adhesive note paper in books; white erasers work better than pink erasers to remove marks or dirt from paper; dust off books with a brush or use a cheesecloth-covered nozzle of a vacuum cleaner.

Popular with the participants and quickly snapped up were the information handouts set out on the tables. They covered such topics as "Caring for Your Photographic Collections," "Record and Tape Care in a Nutshell" and "Family Papers: Tips for Long-Term Care."

Across the aisle were vendors of acid-free archival products. Document storage boxes, clam shell rare-book boxes, slide storage systems, photo albums, mylar photo corners, mylar envelopes and many other products were on display.

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book at the Library, said everyone was very pleased with the work-

Continued on page 153

New Country Studies Available from Federal Research Division

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest volumes in a series of country studies published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *Germany: A Country Study*, edited by Eric Solsten, and *India: A Country Study*, edited by James Heitzman and Robert L. Worden.

The series consists of 107 titles and covers approximately 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security. The books on Germany and India offer expanded, lengthier coverage than the average book, reflecting the heightened interest in newly unified Germany and the complexity of India's society and culture. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary and an index.

More than 1.14 million copies of the books in the series have been sold by the Government Printing Office, and more than 232,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4840.

To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (Germany - $39, 008-020-01408-7; India - $49, 008-020-01409-5). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Country studies can also be purchased through the Sales Shop, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4985; telephone (202) 707-0204.

New Finding Aids from the American Folklife Center

The Library's American Folklife Center has recently issued Finding Aids to collections in the Archive of Folk Culture for various topics. New titles available are "Ohio Collections," Wyoming Collections," "Colorado Collections," "West Virginia Collections" and "Minnesota Collections."

They are available on-line at http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ or from the Folklife Center at (202) 707-6590.

Israel

Cont'd from page 145

governmental sources. In return, the Library sends out thousands of pieces of current, commercially available, research-quality publications selected from the Library's duplicates collection. Ms. Shirazi would like all exchange partners to know that "the Library makes a conscious effort to collect nonbook materials," and she "encourages all organizations to follow the Embassy's example and make them available on exchange."

Most of the material from Israel acquired to date for the Library's film collections has been received on an exchange basis from several partners, such as smaller research organizations with limited budgets that produce material mostly in the area of ethnic Jewish music and film. The Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center in Or Yehudah has provided videos on Iraqi Jewry, such as the "Jewish Wedding in Baghdad." The Ministry of Education sent the Library two films on the Druze community in Israel: "The Druze" and "Son of Abraham." The Library has also received films from the Israel Police on "Combatting Terrorism-The Israeli Experience." Renanot (Institute for Jewish Music) and Bet Hatefutsot (Museum of the Jewish Diaspora) are among the exchange partners providing the Library with sound recordings of the music of various Jewish communities worldwide such as: "Songs of the Jewish Yemenite Diwan," "Los Cantes de Ester, Salonika" and "Piyutim for the High Holidays in the Tradition of the Jews of Kurdistan."

— Valerie S. Mwalilino

Ms. Mwalilino is in the African and Middle Eastern Division.

Preservation

Cont'd from page 152

shop and the turnout was excellent. An attendance log recorded about 500 participants.

The Library's first workshop in 1996 — the brainchild of Diane Nester Kresh, director for Preservation — drew an equally large crowd, and the entire event took place in the Mumford Room. For 1997 the workshop space was expanded to include the classrooms.

"We got extra space this year and it looks like we're going to need even more space next year," said Ann Grossman, a Library employee, who was helping to direct the visitors.

Amparo Torres, coordinator of the event, hopes to expand the workshop's hours next year to give visitors a chance to attend all lectures and still have time for the demonstrations and displays.

— Donna Urschell

Ms. Urschell is a Washington freelance writer.

Nobel Poet Reads at Library

Milosz Appears Before a Packed House

Nobel Prize-winning poet Czeslaw Milosz spoke of his life, his poems and his philosophies during a poetry reading held at the Library on April 3. From his work, he read a variety of his translated poems, including those that celebrated the beauty of life, and those that bemoaned the depravity of evil.

Mr. Milosz's poetry represents the full life he has lived. Born in Lithuania in 1911, he lived through the Russian Revolution, the rise of the Communist system in the Soviet Union and as a young student saw Hitler come to power in Germany.

Following his reading, he was asked about his views of what lies ahead in the next century. He answered that he has witnessed "incredible crimes by the two worst criminals—Stalin and Hitler. They are now gone, so I look with some optimism to the next century."

After World War II, he came to the United States as a diplomat for the Polish communist government. He defected to the West in 1951, and spent a decade in Paris as a freelance writer. In 1961 he became a lecturer in Polish literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where he later became professor of Slavic languages and literature, a job he still holds.

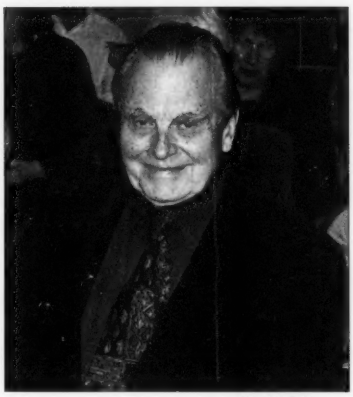
All of his poems but one have been written in his native Polish, even though there was a ban on his poetry in Poland until after he won the Nobel Prize in 1980. Robert Hass and Robert Pinsky, current and future poets laureate at the Library, are among those who have worked with Mr. Milosz in the translation of his poetry into English. Mr. Milosz and Mr. Hass are neighbors in Berkeley. Mr. Hass and Mr. Pinsky joined a team put together there to translate Mr. Milosz's poetry. "But they don't know Polish. A translation was done by myself and they corrected it — they have an excellent ear for English," said Mr. Milosz, laughing.

Mr. Milosz began the reading with a short poem titled "Encounter." He read in English and Polish, and followed with "Bypassing Rue Descartes," a poem about his time in Paris, "when it was the capital of the world." It reads: "As to my heavy sins, I remember one most vividly:/How, one day, walking on a forest path along a stream,/I pushed a rock down onto a water snake coiled in the grass." Mr. Milosz explained that killing a water snake represents a grave sin in some pagan religions, a remnant of which remains in his childhood home, Lithuania.

From his work, he also selected poems that reflected his thoughts on the nature of being, including: "Esse," "a poem about a love affair that lasted one minute and a half in a Parisian metro"; "This World," of which Milosz said, "Maybe it is not proper to wish the disappearance of this world, but I have one such poem"; and "The Gift," a poem that Buddhists included in a book of their ontology, although Milosz mentioned that he is not a Buddhist.

Mr. Milosz prefaced each of his pieces with a short introduction. For the poem "Reading the Notebook of Anna Kamienska," he said that "unfortunately art has a demonic side," and that at times people are uneasy hearing this poem.

About his poem "At a Certain Age," he said, to laughter from the audience, "This of course is about my age, a very venerable age."



Yusef El-Amin

Czeslaw Milosz

Originally, Mr. Milosz was scheduled to appear with Mr. Hass after the reading, to talk about the process of translation. However, Mr. Hass had pulled a muscle in his back and was unable to attend. Instead, Mr. Milosz answered questions from the audience. Many of his poems contain spiritual connotations, and an audience member asked Mr. Milosz what role faith plays in his life. That is a "touchy subject," he said "because it is a little preposterous to pretend one has faith. I hope that I have faith."

Although Mr. Hass was unable to attend, he passed some remarks on to Prosser Gifford, director of Scholarly Programs, saying that he sees in Mr. Milosz "the ceaseless inventiveness of an older poet." In 1995 Mr. Hass described Mr. Milosz as a witness to the 20th century. "Milosz wrote quiet, powerful anti-war poems in the midst of Nazi occupation in simple and pure Polish," Mr. Hass said.

— Suzanne Bacon

Ms. Bacon is an intern from Brigham Young University who is working in the Office of Communications.

"At the entrance, my bare feet on the dirt floor,
Here, gusts of heat; at my back, white clouds.
I stare and stare. It seems I was called for this:
To glorify things just because they are."

— taken from "Blacksmith Shop,"
in the collection *Provinces*,
translated by Czeslaw Milosz
and Robert Hass

News From the National Library Service

Institute on Federal Library Resources to Be Held in Washington

The 23rd annual Institute on Federal Library Resources, sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science of Catholic University of America, will be held in Washington, D.C., July 21-Aug. 1.

Frank Kurt Cylke, the academic director, announced that the carefully planned curriculum will: identify the role of the federal libraries, information centers and data banks in the federal library community; discuss the implication of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's posture as related to federal libraries; identify resources, publications and specialized services provided by federal libraries; identify resources available through major government clearinghouses, such as National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC); compare the in-operation or the in-process development of the major federal library and information services; identify and articulate the functions performed by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee.

Participants will be addressed by 29 directors of federal information programs and several membership association representatives.

Information regarding the Institute may be obtained by contacting the School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064; telephone (202) 319-5085.

NLS Contracts for Validation of National Literary Braille Competency Test

On Sept. 26, 1996, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS) contracted with Human Resources Research Organization of Alexandria, Va., to carry out the validation of the Library's recently developed National Literary Braille Competency Test (NLBCT). The test, released for use in 1994, was developed under Library of Congress auspices by a committee of experts at the request of major blind membership organizations in the United States. These groups were concerned that teachers of blind children and adults be skilled users of braille themselves. The test evaluates competency in writing braille with a slate and stylus and with a braillewriter, ability to read braille and knowledge of braille code rules. It is expected to be used to verify the braille skills of teachers.

Human Resources Research is nonprofit corporation engaged in research, development and evaluation in the behavioral and social sciences with application toward improving human performance and organizational effectiveness. The organization was firstestablished at George Washington University in 1951 to carry out human resources research for the army. Its professional staff includes approximately 65 psychologists, statisticians, computer scientists and technicians, and its areas of expertise include performance measurement, job analysis, the development of assessment instruments and methods and certification testing.

The director for the validation process will be Deirdre Knapp, whose experience includes designing and developing certification testing programs and job analyses for national organizations.

Evelyn Rex will be the braille consultant for the NLBCT validation project. Ms. Rex is a braille expert with more than 30 years of experience as a consultant in the education of visually impaired persons. She served as the director and a teacher in a program that she implemented at Illinois State University to educate teachers of visually impaired students. She has also served on committees and task forces to set guidelines and standards for programs and teachers of the visually impaired.

The validation process is divided into two parts. In the first part, the contractors will analyze the literary braille tasks that are performed by teachers in rehabilitation settings, in residential schools and in mainstreamed classrooms and determine the degree to which the NLBCT assesses competency to perform these tasks. In the second part, the contractors will determine the reliability of the four versions of the NLBCT. The test will be administered to at least 200 examinees, and the results will be analyzed to determine reliabilities and standard errors of measurement and also the difficulty and pass-fail decision equivalence for each version.

Human Resources Research will submit recommendations based on the group's analysis. The validation process is expected to take two years.

For further information contact: Frank Kurt Cylke, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; telephone:(202) 707-5104; fax (202)707-0712; e-mail nls@loc.gov.

News from the Center for the Book

'Great American Portraits' to Be Presented on May 14

On May 14 author Phyllis Theroux will moderate a program of readings by well-known Americans about Americans. The spoken portraits will be drawn from her new book, *The Book of Eulogies: A Collection of Memorial Tributes, Poetry, Essays, and Letters of Condolence,* just published by Scribner. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Library's James Madison Memorial Building. No tickets are required for this free event, which is part of the Center for the Book's "Books & Beyond" lecture series. Ms. Theroux will sign copies of the book before and after the readings.

The speakers will include:

- Clarence G. Newsome of Howard University, reading from Frederick Douglass's tribute to Abraham Lincoln;
- Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) reading from his undelivered eulogy to Lewis B. Puller Jr., a comrade-in-arms in Vietnam;
- Television and radio commentator Cokie Roberts reading a poem by her late sister, Barbara Boggs Sigmund, "Flesh of My Flesh";
- Livingston Biddle reading his great-great-grandfather Nicholas Biddle's eulogy to Thomas Jefferson;
- Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy reading from his tribute to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey;
- Actress Brenda Brown-Grooms, as Fannie Lee Chaney, reading her eulogy to her son James, who was murdered in Mississippi; and
- Frank Mankiewicz, former press secretary to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, reading Kennedy's impromptu tribute to Martin Luther King on the night of King's assassination.

Philip M. Campbell

Phyllis Theroux

Phyllis Theroux also is the author of *California and Other States of Grace; Nightlights: Bedtime Stories for Parents in the Dark;* and *Peripheral Visions*. She was a frequent essayist on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" and lives in Ashland, Va.

■ **Photography Exhibit Extended to June 10.** "Library: The Drama Within," an exhibition of photographs of libraries and the people who use them now on display in the Mumford foyer in the Madison Building, has been extended through June 10.The photographs and explanatory text are by photographer Diane Asséo Griliches (see LC *Information Bulletin*, April 7).

"This extension is good news," said John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, which co-sponsored both the exhibition and the book on which it is based, Ms. Griliches' *Library: The Drama Within* (University of New Mexico Press in association with the Center for the Book, 1996). "It gives members of the public and Library staff more time to view these striking photographs. It also gives the Center for the Book and other organizations additional opportunities to promote both the exhibition and 'Building a Nation of Readers,' the national reading theme that the exhibit promotes. "For example, Mr. Cole noted, "the Center for the Book plans to develop a brochure and at least one poster using the photographs, and is looking for a financial partner to help create a traveling exhibit."

"The exhibit helps book sales too," he added, noting that the book is now in its third printing."Of particular importance in boosting sales was a favorable notice in the March 23 issue of *The New York Times* "Book Review." In her review, Andrea Cooper said that the book's greatest strength was in "the union of photos, well-written histories or anecdotes about each library and pertinent quotations from prominent writers."

A "Read More About It" message from the Center for the Book is part of the exhibit. Following are the books about the role of libraries and reading

suggested by the center:

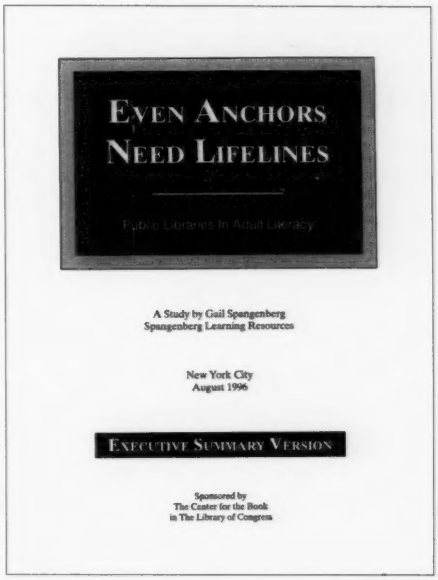
- Otto L. Bettmann, *The Delights of Reading: Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes*. Boston: David R. Godine, 1987.
- Sven Birkerts, *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*. Boston: Faber & Faber, 1994.
- Paul Dickson, *The Library in America: A Celebration in Words and Pictures*. N.Y.: Facts on File, 1986.
- Marty and Anna Rabkin, *Public Libraries: Travel Treasures of the West*. Golden, Colo.: North American Press, 1994.
- Susan Allen Tooth and John Coughlan, eds. *Reading Rooms: America's Foremost Writers Celebrate Our Public Libraries with Stories, Memoirs, Essays, and Poems*. N.Y.: Doubleday, 1991.

■ **Role of the Book Designer to Be Explored in April 29 and May 15 Lectures.** This spring at the Library of Congress, the Center for the Book, in cooperation with the Washington, D.C., chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), is presenting "From Cover to Cover: Expanding the Role of the Book Designer, a three-part lecture series. On April 16, designer and publisher William Drenttel of New York City, president emeritus of AIGA and chairman of both the AIGA's Literacy Initiative and its 50 Books/50 Covers Book Show, explored how designers are breaking new ground as authors, editors and publishers."

"The Book as Art" will be addressed on April 29 by book designer, writer and photographer Barbara Hodgson, who will focus on her background and progression from designer to designer-writer. Ms. Hodgson is the author of the illustrated novel *The Tattooed Map* (Chronicle Books). Her next book, *The Rat: A Perverse Miscellany*, will be published next year. She and writer Nick Bantock are co-founders and partners of Byzantium Books, a book packaging company dedicated to challenging the form of the book.

Ellen Lupton, author, designer and curator of Contemporary Design at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York, will speak on May 15. Her topic is "Designer as Author. "Drawing examples from her own accomplishments and from the history of design, she will examine the ways in which she combines her writing, designing and publishing. Ms. Lupton has written several books and organized a series of major exhibitions at Cooper-Hewitt, including "Mechanical Brides: Women and Machines from Home to Office" and "Mixing Messages: Graphic Design in Contemporary Culture."

For information about the lecture series, call AIGA at (202) 347-3881.



■ **Adult Literacy Report Reprinted.** Thanks to the generosity of Harold W. McGraw Jr., additional copies *of Even Anchors Need Guidelines: Public Libraries in Adult Literacy*, a 144-page study commissioned by the Center for the Book and released in fall 1996 (see LC Information Bulletin, Feb. 24) are now available.

The study was prepared by Gail Spangenberg of Spangenberg Learning Resources with funding from the Center for the Book, the National Institute for Literacy, Harold W. McGraw Jr., the McGraw-Hill Co. and the American Library Association. Mr. McGraw's continuing generosity permitted the Center for the Book to reprint and distribute multiple copies of the report to all 50 state libraries for further distribution within each state. Additional copies also were sent to the American Library Association and other organizations. Copies of the study also may be obtained by writing the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20540-4920.

Senators
Cont'd from page 147

tol Building, the White House and other government buildings. This was a terribly humiliating event in our early history, and yet from out of the ashes rose something quite spectacular.

"Congress was adjourned that summer, and when members returned they found the Capitol a smoke-stained ruin, its chambers and furnishings destroyed, and the Library of Congress burned. To replace the lost books, former President Thomas Jefferson offered his own library, which he had spent 50 years collecting. The first Library of Congress had been a law library, but Jefferson's 6,487 volumes also covered politics, history, science, literature, fine arts and philosophy. It seems incredible that some members of Congress objected that Jefferson's collection was 'too philosophical, had too many books in foreign languages, was too costly and was too large for the wants of Congress.'

"Fortunately, on Jan. 26, 1815, Congress authorized $23,950 to purchase the books, which became the nucleus of the present Library of Congress. Today, there is not a subject of human study not included in its vast holdings.

"Until 1897, the Library of Congress was located inside the Capitol building, on the West Front, halfway between the Senate and House Chambers. Senators and representatives could leave the floor and walk to the Library for reading and research. Eventually the collection grew so large that the Library had to move to a separate building across the street. It remains connected to the Capitol by underground tunnels and is still an easy stroll away. But too often one hears senators complain that they are too busy to do much reading.

"Tonight, let me urge all of you to use the Library of Congress to continue your educations, to broaden and deepen your perspectives and to put today's pressing events into historical context. Consider the example of a newly elected Alabama senator by the name of Hugo Black. He arrived in Washington in 1927, months before Congress came into session. Having given up his law practice, Sen. Black decided to make the Library of Congress "his post-graduate school." He read extensively in economics, politics, and government, beginning with Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and moving through the works of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and other Founding Fathers. He read Plutarch, Suetonius, Seneca, Cicero and Livy. He studied Montesquieu, Rousseau, Locke, Spencer and Veblen. He read the records of the Constitutional Convention. What an education, and how it showed in Hugo Black's 40-year career in the Senate and on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jim Higgins

Dr. Billington (left) spoke with Sen. and Mrs. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) before the March 13 dinner for new senators in the Jefferson Building.

"He read Cicero and so have I. That great Roman senator wrote that one 'ought to be acquainted with the history of the events of past ages. To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history.'

"As a senator, I have taken Cicero's words to heart. I have been reading history, ancient history as well as the history of England and American history.

"I have absorbed much of the message of Edward *Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Gibbon tells us that Rome's decline was assured when public virtue and patriotism gave way to immorality and sedition, and when Roman citizens demanded free bread and public shows. The Roman Senate lost its dignity and its honor; corruption and venality were enthroned in high places; laziness and indolence were rewarded; emperors were assassinated; and citizens were massacred in the civil wars fought to benefit tyrants ambitious to secure the throne and wear the purple.

"A lesson to be drawn from the brilliant works of Gibbon is that the enemies of Rome were within her own bosom.

"Do you see any of these symptoms of decay in our own society? I certainly do. In my own book *The Senate of the Roman Republic*, I argued that Rome declined when the Roman Senate surrendered its powers and prerogatives into the hands of Julius Caesar, making him dictator for life. We as United States senators have a responsibility to support and defend the Constitution, especially the powers and prerogatives that it assigns to the Senate. Future history will depend on how well we do. It is no easy job, but the weapons needed are right here, all around us, in this building. Please take full advantage of them."

Pinksy
Cont'd from page 143

out forming a mini-movement or setting himself loudly at odds with the dominant tendencies of American poetry, has brought into it something new — beginning with his first volume ... and gathering authority with each subsequent book. Call it a way of ... connecting the particulars of the self ... with the largest intellectual concerns of history, culture, psychology and art.

"What makes Mr. Pinsky such a rewarding and exciting writer," she continued, "is the sense he gives, in the very shape and structure of his poems, of getting at the depths of human experience, in which everything is always repeated but also always new."

Mr. Pinsky's translation of *The Inferno* into contemporary verse form has elicited wide acclaim. Poet Richard Howard wrote: "Pinsky is the first American poet (perhaps because he is an American poet) to give us this newness of infernal things, Dante's excited discourse which has nothing to do with famous anthology pieces, but everything with breathless and terrible discoveries."

Background of the Laureateship

The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties required of the Poet Laureate, in order to afford incumbents maximum freedom to work on their own projects while at the Library. Each brings a new emphasis to the position. Allen Tate (1943-44), for example, served as editor of the Library's now-defunct *Quarterly Journal* during his tenure and edited the compilation *Sixty American Poets, 1896-1944*. Some consultants have suggested and chaired literary festivals and conferences; others have spoken in a number of schools and universities and received the public in the Poetry Room.

Maxine Kumin initiated a popular women's series of poetry workshops at the Poetry and Literature Center. Gwendolyn Brooks met with groups of elementary school children to encourage them to write poetry. Howard Nemerov conducted seminars at the Library for high school English classes. Most incumbents have furthered the development of the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature. Joseph Brodsky initiated the idea of providing books of poetry in public places — supermarkets, hotels, airports and hospitals. Rita Dove brought a program of poetry and jazz to the Library's literary series, along with a reading by young Crow Indian poets and a two-day conference titled "Oil on the Waters: The Black Diaspora," featuring panel discussions, readings and music.

In the past two years, Robert Hass sponsored a weeklong celebration of American nature writing called "Watershed" that brought 26 poets, story writers and essayists to the Library in April 1996.In addition, his weekly column in *The Washington Post* "Book World" has introduced a wide audience to a broad range of poems.

Consultants in Poetry and Poets Laureate Consultants in Poetry and their terms of service are listed below:

Joseph Auslander 1937-41
Allen Tate 1943-44
Robert Penn Warren 1944-45
Louise Bogan 1945-46
Karl Shapiro 1946-47
Robert Lowell 1947-48
Leonie Adams 1948-49
Elizabeth Bishop 1949-50
Conrad Aiken 1950-52
(First to serve two terms)
William Carlos Williams
(Appointed in 1952 but did not serve)
Randall Jarrell 1956-58
Robert Frost 1958-59
Richard Eberhart 1959-61
Louis Untermeyer 1961-63
Howard Nemerov 1963-64
Reed Whittemore 1964-65
Stephen Spender 1965-66
James Dickey 1966-68
William Jay Smith 1968-70
William Stafford 1970-71
Josephine Jacobsen 1971-73
Daniel Hoffman 1973-74
Stanley Kunitz 1974-76
Robert Hayden 1976-78
William Meredith 1978-80
Maxine Kumin 1981-82
Anthony Hecht 1982-84
Robert Fitzgerald 1984-85
(Appointed and served in a health-limited capacity, but did not come to LC)
Reed Whittemore 1984-85
(Interim Consultant in Poetry)
Gwendolyn Brooks 1985-86
Robert Penn Warren 1986-87
(First to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry)
Richard Wilbur 1987-88
Howard Nemerov 1988-90
Mark Strand 1990-91
Joseph Brodsky 1991-92
Mona Van Duyn 1992-93
Rita Dove 1993-95
Robert Hass 1995-97

The poetry and literature reading series at the Library of Congress is the oldest in the Washington area, and among the oldest in the United States. This annual series of public poetry and fiction readings, lectures, symposia, and occasional dramatic performances began in the 1940s and has been almost exclusively supported since 1951 by a gift from the late Gertrude Clarke Whittall, who wanted to bring the appreciation of good literature to a larger audience.

The Poetry and Literature Center administers the series and is the home of the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, a position that has existed since 1936, when the late Archer M. Huntington endowed the Chair of Poetry at the Library of Congress. Since then, many of the nation's most eminent poets have served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and, after the passage of Public Law 99-194, as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. The Poet Laureate suggests authors to read in the literary series, plans other special literary events during the reading season and usually introduces the programs.

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ISSN 0041-7904

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